

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 NEAE-00 MC-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 NIC-01 IO-14 ACDA-19

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P R 281805Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1857

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 20503

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, LY, XF, MASS

SUBJECT: FRENCH MIDDLE EAST ARMS EMBARGO LIFTED

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. AFTER A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AUGUST 28, GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ANDRE ROSSI READ FOLLOWING STATEMENT"AS ANNOUNCED BY ITS COMMUNIQUE OF AUGUST 7, THE GOVERNMENT HAS REEXAMINED THE FRENCH ATTITUDE CONCERNING FURNISHING MILITARY MATERIAL TO THE MIDDLE EAST STATES; IT HAS DECIDED THAT THE SALE OF SUCH MATERIAL TO THE STATES IN QUESTION CAN HEREAFTER BE AUTHORIZED AFTER A CASE-BY-CASE EXAMINATION." ACCORDING AFP RELEASE, ROSSI
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IN COMMENTING ON THIS STATEMENT SAID THAT IN FACT

"THE IDEA OF AN EMBARGO NO LONGER EXISTS." END
UNCLASSIFIED.

2. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. QUAI MIDDLE EAST DEPUTY
DIRECTOR ROUILLON TOLD EMBOFF AUGUST 28 THAT NEW
GOF POLICY WAS DECIDED PRIMARILY ON BASIS THAT NEW
SITUATION HAS BEEN CREATED IN MIDDLE EAST BY SIGNATURE
OF MILITARY DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENTS. HE ADDED THAT
GOF ALSO HAD IMPRESSION THAT NEGOTIATIONS WERE
CONTINUING, THANKS TO SECRETARY KISSINGER, SO THAT
THERE WAS NO LONGER A MIDDLE EAST "BATTLE-FIELD".
(THIS WAS REFERENCE TO FACT FRENCH ME ARMS EMBARGO
POLICY HAD BEEN CALLED "BATTLE-FIELD POLICY" SINCE
IT WAS LIMITED TO NATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN DIRECTLY
INVOLVED IN HOSTILITIES.)

3. WHEN EMBOFF ASKED ABOUT RUMORED EGYPTIAN
NEGOTIATIONS TO BUY ONE-HUNDRED MIRAGE AIRCRAFT,
ROUILLON SAID SUCH REPORTS ARE GREATLY EXAGGERATED.
HE EXPLAINED THAT SALES COULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO TAKE
PLACE SO QUICKLY NOR OF SUCH GREAT MAGNITUDE. HE
ALSO SPECIFIED THAT UNDER NEW CASE-BY-CASE POLICY
GOF COULD LIMIT THE QUANTITY OF SALES AND ALSO TYPE
OF MATERIAL SOLD TO ANY PROSPECTIVE MIDDLE EAST
PURCHASER. HE EXPRESSED PERSONAL FEELING THAT
THIS WILL CREATE PROBLEMS FOR GOF WHENEVER IT APPROVES
SALE TO ONE PARTY WHICH IT NOT PREPARED TO APPROVE
FOR ANOTHER MIDDLE EAST STATE. HE CONCLUDED THAT
NEW POLICY HAD IN ANY CASE BEEN UNDER CONSIDERATION
FOR SEVERAL YEARS AND THAT ITS ADOPTION AT SOME TIME
OR ANOTHER HAD BEEN PREDICTABLE. END CONFIDENTIAL.
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